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261st Plenary Session

The Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities held its Plenary Session in Brussels on 14 and 15 December. Its Chairman, Mr Alberto Masprone, presided.

The Session was attended by Mr Petros Moralis, the Greek Deputy Minister for Labour and the Council's President-in-Office who took stock of the Greek Presidency's achievements, and Mr Francis Blanchard, the ILO Director-General, who talked about his organization's relations with the European Communities with special reference to the draft Community charter of basic social rights.

Summary of the address by Mr Moralis, Greek Minister

Mr Petros Moralis, Deputy Minister for Labour for Greece and President of the Council, addressing the Economic and Social Committee gave the members a summary of the achievements made by the Council during the last six months while Greece was in the chair. Efforts had been made to speed up the completion of the internal market and its progress was now irreversible, but there were still difficulties to be overcome on the question of border controls, the free movement of persons and tax harmonization. He listed the directives adopted in many sectors, such as health, education, transport, energy, agriculture and the environment and emphasized the importance which the Greek Presidency had given to legislation on social policy and the creation of a social dimension.

He believed that the social dimension would not cause any difficulties or constraints on European competitiveness. The single market was not an end in itself but the means to bring welfare to all in Europe.

Mr Moralis expressed the hope that the Charter of Social Rights, the first drafting of which had been entrusted to the Economic and Social Committee, would be implemented in the near future.



Attending the Plenary Session, second from left Mr Jacques Moreau, ESC Secretary-General, Mr Alberto Masprone, ESC President, and Mr Petros Moralis, Greek Deputy Minister for Labour and President-in-Office of the Council.

Debate

In the debate, Mr Filotas Kazazis (Greece — Employers) pointed to the risks which smaller companies will face in the single market, especially in competition with larger ones for winning new markets in third countries. Mr François Staedelin (France — President of the Workers' Group) recalled that the plight of the unemployed remained unrelieved while repeated appeals for the implementation of the Commission's strategy for economic cooperation for employment was ignored by the States year after year.

Mr Athanasios Alexopoulos (Greece — Various Interests) deplored the lack of action safeguarding the environment, threatened by damage to the ozone layer and maritime pollution. The question of European defence as a future problem was raised by Mr George Dassis (Greece — Workers) while Mrs Alma Williams (UK — Various Interests) wanted to see the urgent adoption of a directive on the safety of consumer products.

In replying to the debate, Mr Moralis emphasized that the social dimension was a basic priority and an indispensable element for achieving the single market and the Community's progress.

At the same time, economic cohesion among Member States had to be improved to meet international competition and the challenge of the new technologies. As for unemployment, only long-term planning based on improved education and vocational training would tackle this enormous problem.

He concluded by saying that the Greek Ministers held the Economic and Social Committee in high esteem and that they would support its efforts to strengthen its role within the European Community.

Summary of the address by Mr Blanchard, Director-General of the ILO

The Director-General of the International Labour Office, Mr Francis Blanchard, warned the Economic and Social Committee against the dangers of the Community's proposed Charter of Fundamental Social Rights being 'less generous' than existing International Labour Conventions. For his part he would rather see the ESC take as a starting point some of the standards contained in the ILO Conventions and the Social Charter of the Council of Europe, it being understood that any such selection would be accompanied by a formal Community declaration.



Mr Francis Blanchard, Director-General of the International Labour Office, being welcomed to the Plenary Session by ESC President Alberto Masprone and Mr Jacques Moreau, ESC Secretary-General.

The ESC had been asked by the President of the Commission, Mr Jacques Delors, to express its views on a Community Charter of Fundamental Social Rights by the end of February 1989.

Debate

The future rapporteur of the document to be adopted by the ESC, Mr François Staedelin (Chairman of the Workers' Group, France) informed Mr Francis Blanchard of the questions raised by the Sub-Committee responsible for preparing the text: will the creation of a single market not lead to new rights not yet codified by the ILO? Would a Community Social Charter not of necessity be legally binding?

Speaking on behalf of the Employers' Group, Mr Paul Arets (Belgium) said that he was concerned about the very short deadline which had been set for preparation of the ESC document, whilst Mr Francis Whitworth (United Kingdom) said that it was primarily the task of the European Commission to carry out an investigation into which ILO standards could be incorporated into a Community Charter.

Finally, several members of the 'Various Interests' Group, such as Mr Fons Margot (Belgium) and Mr Walter Briganti (Italy), urged that the Community Charter should not disregard the self-employed, SMEs, cooperatives and those not working, such as young people and the elderly.

In his reply Mr Francis Blanchard reminded ESC members of the work carried out by the ILO in recent years on such matters as equality between the sexes with regard to social welfare or worker participation in decision-making, not to mention the Conventions on trade union freedoms, working relations in the civil service, etc.

As far as the actual implementation of standards was concerned, the ILO had worked out a 'relatively' effective monitoring system. The Director-General of the ILO then suggested that 'involvement of the European Court of Justice might conceivably mean more rigorous enforcement of the standards contained in the Community's Social Charter'.

Finally, Mr Francis Blanchard underlined the impact which a Community Social Charter would have on developing countries. At the conference on structural adjustments organized by the ILO in November 1987, one of the ideas raised had been that of including in commercial contracts a 'social clause' calling for observance of a number of standards and fundamental workers' rights.

Mr Blanchard added that the ILO was currently working in this area.

Winding up his speech, the Director-General of the ILO drew attention to the 'historic ties' between the ILO and the EEC and expressed the hope that the two institutions would work together more closely in the future.

ADOPTION OF OPINIONS

1. COSMETICS

Proposal for a Council Directive amending for the fifth time Directive 76/768/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to cosmetic products

[COM(88) 324 final — SYN 139]

Gist of the Commission proposal

The proposal seeks to introduce the advisory committee procedure for the adaptation to technical progress of Directive 76/768/EEC in accordance with Council Decision 87/373/EEC.

Gist of the Committee's Opinion ¹

In an Opinion adopted unanimously, the Committee considered the proposal as inadequate and suggested that it be amended.

It considers it inadvisable to change the present arrangements involving the Committee on Adaptation to Technical Progress, which is a regulatory committee composed of representatives of the Member States voting by a qualified majority.

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs, chaired by Mr Jaschick (Germany — Various Interests). The rapporteur was Mr Proumens (Belgium — Employers).

¹ CES 1325/88.

2. WASTE

**Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive
No 75/442/EEC on waste
[COM(88) 391 final — SYN 146]**

Gist of the Commission proposal

The Commission is presenting two draft Directives:

1. A Framework Directive

The draft Framework Directive will in fact be an amended version of existing Directive 75/442. To ensure uniform application, this new Directive will contain more precise definitions of waste disposal. It will suggest ways of promoting the recycling and re-use of waste. The Member States will undertake to encourage the development of clean technologies and products causing a minimum of waste.

The authorization procedures to which waste disposal firms are subject will be tightened up and regular inspections instituted. Periodic reports on the application of the Directive will be drawn up by the Member States and sent to the Commission.

2. A Directive on hazardous waste

The new Directive on hazardous waste proposed by the Commission will replace in its entirety existing Directive No 78/319 concerning toxic and hazardous waste. It will be wider-ranging and will contain more precise definitions, so as to guarantee uniform application. The increased volume of cross-border movements of hazardous waste makes this necessary. The definitions drawn up by the OECD's waste management policy group will be used as a basis for detailed codification.

The Member States will take the necessary measures to prohibit the uncontrolled dumping, discharge, disposal and transport of hazardous waste. The mixing of hazardous waste with other waste is prohibited under the new proposals, unless it is a necessary part of the treatment. Member States may make collection and transport operations subject to authorization.

The proposal also specifies the information to be regularly notified to the Commission, including details of all authorized treatment establishments, their facilities and throughput. This information will be fed into a Community databank (Tox-Waste)

which will allow national authorities to know where hazardous waste is being treated in the Community and is particularly important to the proper functioning of the existing Directives on the shipment of hazardous waste.

Companies producing, holding or disposing of hazardous waste will be subject to regular inspections. They will have to keep full records for at least two years. National authorities will ensure proper packaging and labelling and procedures to be followed in case of accident.

The competent authorities in Member States will draw up plans for the disposal of hazardous waste which will cover types and quantities of waste to be disposed of, methods of disposal, authorized sites, disused tips and contaminated sites which need to be kept under surveillance or reclaimed. These plans must be made public and sent to the Commission.

The Commission proposes that both Directives should take effect from the beginning of 1990.

Gist of the Committee's Opinion ¹

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously.

The Committee is afraid that the proposed mix of new provisions and amendments to old provisions will leave gaps in the Community's plans for waste legislation. This is all the more likely as the Commission intends to adopt an array of further detailed provisions partly superseding or supplementing the Basic Directives.

If the two Draft Directives are to improve the Community's waste-management blueprint, they must contain harmonized minimum standards with due regard to environmental policy priorities.

The Committee acknowledges that it will not be possible in all Member States to create facilities which meet the technical specifications for individual groups of waste substances. To this extent waste shipments will also be necessary in future.

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs, chaired by Mr Jaschick (Germany — Various Interests). The rapporteur was Mr Boisseree (Germany — Various Interests).

¹ CES 1326/88.

3. PREDICTIVE MEDICINE

Proposal for a Council Decision adopting a specific research programme in the field of health predictive medicine: human genome analysis (1989-91)
[COM(88) 424 final — SYN 146]

Gist of the Commission proposal

The Draft programme is part of the current (1987-91) 'Framework research and technological development programme' whose 'Health' line, as subsumed under the 'Quality of life' heading, provides for new activities in connection with the development of predictive medicine (budget: ECU 15 million).

Predictive medicine seeks to predict susceptibility to diseases with a view to their prevention and early diagnosis, as well as to improved prognosis and, eventually, treatment. It aims to protect individuals from the kinds of illnesses to which they are genetically most vulnerable and, where appropriate, to prevent the transmission of the genetic susceptibilities to the next generation.

The programme (basic precompetitive research) will contain the following strands:

- (i) improvement of the resolution of the human genetic map;
- (ii) the setting-up of ordered clone libraries;
- (iii) the improvement of advanced genetic technologies.

The programme is a European response to the international challenges presented by the large-scale biological research projects in the United States of America and Japan, with the ultimate aim of identifying genes involved in disease, with a view to their isolation and structural analysis.

Gist of the Committee's Opinion ¹

The research programme, within its own strictly defined limits, is approved, but, in its Opinion (adopted unanimously less one abstention), attention is drawn to the ethical issues and social implications of a long period of genetic research.

¹ CES 1342/88.

An ethical committee should be appointed to define the limits of genetic research in an appropriate code of practice and to assist the Commission in monitoring this and similar programmes.

The Commission is asked to investigate, in conjunction with the relevant social groups, the social impact of the application of predictive medicine.

Special public relations work is needed, as the programme's health policy objectives cannot be achieved without broad social consensus.

The meagre financial resources available must not be a reason for failing to carry out vital ethical monitoring and information campaigns. Resources could be concentrated so that significant results can be obtained at least in some specific areas.

Research contracts should contain clauses safeguarding ethical principles, and the awarding of contracts should be monitored by the ethical committee.

Europe, with its democratic and constitutional traditions, could make a valuable contribution in this area of research. The Community programme should not be developed in isolation, without the benefit of contacts and exchanges of information with researchers in other countries.

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs, chaired by Mr Jaschick (Germany — Various Interests). The rapporteur was Mrs Tiemann (Germany — Various Interests).

4. AIR QUALITY

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 80/779/EEC on air quality limit values and guide values for sulphur dioxide and suspended particulates [COM(88) 436 final]

Gist of the Commission proposal

The EEC environment action programmes draw attention to the need to harmonize the reduction of concentrations of atmospheric pollutants to levels acceptable for the protection of sensitive ecosystems.

Directive 80/779 covering the pollutants sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and suspended particulates provides for a choice between two methods of sampling and analysis and two sets of limit values.

This dual approach has led to some Member States adopting one system and some the other, and the purpose of the present proposal is to harmonize the dual approach without prejudice to the work already done.

Gist of the Committee's Opinion ¹

In an Opinion adopted unanimously, the Committee welcomes the harmonization proposal and believes that it meets the clean-air objectives of the fourth environment action programme.

However, the Committee points out that certain Member States face difficulties in satisfying the requirements in respect of atmospheric pollution originating *outside* the Community, and the proposed Directive should take account of this.

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs, chaired by Mr Jaschick (Germany — Various Interests). The rapporteur was Mr Boisseree (Germany — Various Interests).

5. TEDIS

Proposal for a Council Decision amending Decision 87/499/EEC introducing a communications network Community programme on trade electronic data interchange system (Tedis)
[COM(88) 523 final]

Gist of the Commission's proposal

Council Decision 87/499/EEC set up a communications network Community programme on trade electronic data interchange systems (Tedis) in trade, industry and administration; the programme covers activities and studies aimed at avoiding incompatibility between different electronic trade data interchange systems caused by lack of common standards.

¹ CES 1327/88.

Under Article 5 of the Decision, participation in the programme is confined to firms established in the Community, and the Decision does not provide for the extension of the programme to non-member countries.

The proposal seeks to amend the Council Decision so as to allow the Commission to negotiate agreements in the form of exchanges of letters with each of the Member States of EFTA associating them with the programme.

The EFTA Member States will have to make a reasonable financial contribution to the programme in order to allow the proposed activities to be expanded.

Gist of the Committee's Opinion ¹

In its Opinion, adopted unanimously, the Committee wholeheartedly endorses the Commission's intention to amend the Decision on the introduction of the Tedis Community programme so as to allow EFTA countries to participate in the programme.

The rapporteur-general of this Opinion was Mr Nierhaus (Germany — Workers).

6. VOCATIONAL TRAINING/DRIVERS OF VEHICLES CARRYING DANGEROUS GOODS

Proposal for a Council Directive on vocational training for certain drivers of vehicles carrying dangerous goods by road
[COM(88) 339 final]

Summary of the Commission document

In response to the growth in national and international services carrying dangerous goods in the Community and to the spate of accidents in recent years, in June 1987 the Commission sent the Council and Parliament a report on the transport of dangerous goods. ²

This report concluded that one of the priorities must be vocational professional qualifications for drivers and others employed in the

¹ CES 1343/88.

² COM(87) 182 final of 16 June 1987.

carriage of dangerous goods (e.g. road transport managers, forwarders, etc.).

The objective of this Directive is to lay down appropriate professional qualifications for drivers of vehicles carrying dangerous goods and thereby plug a major gap in existing international regulations on the subject.

The European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR) lays down rules on training, but only for a limited category of drivers, i.e. those employed in international services carrying dangerous goods in tanks, batteries or receptacles and tank-containers with a total capacity of over 3 000 litres per transport unit.

This proposal for a Directive, however, aims at laying down appropriate vocational qualifications, based on uniform criteria, for all drivers of road vehicles carrying dangerous goods, whether in bulk or in packages, nationally or internationally.

In view of the considerable reorganization which such an obligation will impose on the Member States and to soften the impact which this measure is bound to have on the industry as a whole, the scope of this proposal for a Directive is limited solely to drivers of vehicles with a laden weight of over 3.5 tonnes or of tank-vehicles, tank-containers, etc. with a total capacity of over 3 000 litres.

The Commission will decide in due course whether, and if so how far, the scope of the Directive should be extended, when it sees the results.

Gist of the Committee's Opinion ¹

In an Opinion, adopted unanimously, the Committee makes the point that safety training for drivers of vehicles carrying dangerous substances has been a longstanding and constant concern of transport organizations, unions and haulage firms.

According to statistics, a large number of road accidents are attributable to a lack of training and experience on the part of some drivers. For this reason, the Committee deeply regrets that the draft Directive devotes itself to specific vocational training before the basic professional training requirements for all drivers have been supplemented or amended at Community level.

¹ CES 1336/88.

In line with the principle of free movement of goods, particularly dangerous goods, in the Community, it is imperative for the Commission to ensure that the Member States adopt regulations on national road transport, based on the same principles as those governing international ADR transport regulations, and that national rules be gradually aligned with the international agreement.

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Transport and Communications, chaired by Mr L.J. Smith (United Kingdom — Workers). The rapporteur was Mr Corell Ayora (Spain — Employers).

7. CODE OF CONDUCT — CRS

Proposal for a Council Regulation on a code of conduct for computerized reservation systems
[COM(88) 447 final]

Gist of the Commission proposal

It has been established that about 80% of all European airline bookings are made through travel agents and some 80% of all bookings made by travel agents are made through airline-owned computerized reservation systems (CRS). In order to avoid abuses in the form of denied access to these systems, or discrimination in the provision, loading or display of data or unreasonable conditions imposed on participants or subscribers which can seriously disadvantage air carriers, travel agents and ultimately consumers, the European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC) drew up principles for a code of conduct on CRS, adopted at its triennial meeting in June 1988. Member States of the Community and the Commission participated in the formulation of these principles and supported their approval.

The present Commission proposal aims to enact the abovementioned ECAC principles. It sets out a general and detailed mandatory code of conduct to apply to all CRSs offered for use and/or used in the Community for the distribution and sale of air transport products irrespective of the status or nationality of the system vendor, the source of information used or the location of the relevant central data-processing unit and the geographical location of the air transport service concerned.

This code of conduct should ensure that CRSs are used in a non-discriminatory and transparent way, subject to certain safeguards,

so avoiding their misuse while reinforcing undistorted competition between air carriers and between CRSs and thereby protecting the interests of consumers.

The first part of the present proposal (Articles 1-9) sets out the scope of the Regulation (Article 1), the definitions of its various provisions (Article 2), as well as the terms of the relationship between a system vendor, a parent and/or participating carrier and a subscriber (Articles 3-9).

The second part of the Regulation (Articles 10-20) gives authority to the Commission to investigate complaints of non-compliance with the Regulation and sets out a complaints procedure and a system of fines for infringements.

This code of conduct should apply from 1 January 1989 to all CRSs offered for use and/or used in the Community for the first time after that date. It should apply to other CRSs from 1 April 1989.

In July 1988, the Commission adopted a regulation which gives block exemption from the competition rules *inter alia* to airlines which jointly develop, purchase or operate airline CRSs. This action was designed to meet the specific case of Amadeus and Galileo which were seen by the Council as an appropriate response to the challenge of the major US system vendors — Apollo and Sabre — which were and still are gaining ground in the European market.

This block exemption regulation on CRSs being by definition limited in scope and application to jointly-owned systems, it is important that a more general and detailed code of conduct be established which would apply to a greater number of existing CRSs. The concern, voiced by Member States, the Economic and Social Committee and by Amadeus and Galileo, that the two sets of Community Regulations should not be in conflict, seems to have been taken fully into account in their drafting.

Gist of the Committee's Opinion ¹

In an Opinion, adopted unanimously, the Committee thinks that consumers would have benefited more if the Community had forbidden airlines to be owners of CRS systems and had encouraged ownership by travel agents and/or by independent operators.

¹ CES 1337/88.

As the prime purpose of the proposal is to benefit passengers, the Committee questions the necessity of including cargo and mail services. It considers that the priority should be to ensure that CRS have a comprehensive and fair display of passenger services.

The development of non-scheduled services providing 'seat only' fares is a welcome benefit for the travelling public and it is regrettable that some Member States still prevent such services.

The Committee suggests that all code-sharing flights be treated as connecting flights (as in the ECAC code). However, an asterisk or other identifying mark on the screen could indicate these connecting flights for which a guarantee is given.

The Committee agrees that unfair practices by third-country based airlines should not be allowed to continue unhindered when at the same time they can benefit from a fair display on a European CRS. Nevertheless the use of incomplete displays as a consequence of retaliatory action is not in the interests of the consumer who wants to be able to make the best choice from available options and not be led to one airline because of the lack of reciprocity in another's system. The Committee therefore believes that the system's vendor must inform all travel agents whenever specific items are removed from the display on account of 'reciprocity'.

Finally, the Committee regrets that there is no provision for the Commission to act on behalf of the Community in taking up problems of 'reciprocity' with third countries.

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Transport and Communications, chaired by Mr L.J. Smith (United Kingdom — Workers). The rapporteur was Mr Moreland (United Kingdom — Various Interests).

8. DOSES

Proposal for a Council Decision instituting a specific multiannual programme for the research and development of statistical expert systems (Doses)

[COM(88) 420 final — SYN 149]

Gist of the Commission proposal

The Doses programme comes under research action line 8 of the framework programme of Community activities in the field of

research and technological development (1987-91)¹ — Improvement of European scientific and technical cooperation — and more specifically under its subdivision 8.3 — Forecasting and assessment and other back-up measures (including statistics).

The aim of this programme is to enhance the capacity to produce and use statistical information, employing advanced data-processing techniques; this would provide statisticians and the users of statistics with new statistical tools enabling them to cope with the growing, increasingly varied and systematic demand for statistical data.

The Doses programme is part of a series of Community activities aimed at stimulating research and development in information technologies and promoting an information services market.

The proposed programme aims essentially to:

- (1) encourage regular meetings between the various interested parties (national statistical institutes, universities, industry and the Community) to provide an opportunity for discussing, adapting, coordinating and evaluating the work carried out in this area in order to maximize the results achieved;
- (2) provide funds to launch or support a number of multinational research and development projects in the Community, to be conducted on a cooperative basis in accordance with an agreed approach;
- (3) make arrangements to select and monitor projects and disseminate the results.

An estimate of ECU 4 million is given for the funds needed to carry out the proposed programme, which will be implemented in the form of concerted activities; there will be Community-level coordination of activities which are of general interest to the Member States, and shared-cost activities for which the Community will co-finance the cost to a maximum amount of 50% of the total.

- (1) Vertical study: Preparation of a complete system for automated information processing, from collection to dissemination, in a specific field (as a prototype for other fields and a reference framework for the other themes).
- (2) Documentation of data and statistical methods.

¹ OJ L 302, 24.10.1987, p. 1.

- (3) Access to statistical information.
- (4) Forecasting.

Gist of the Committee's Opinion ¹

In an Opinion adopted unanimously, the Committee approves the Commission proposal as the Doses programme should help to improve the Community's capacity to produce and use statistical information.

However, the Committee regards the proposed budget as insufficient; it may be appropriate for the exploratory projects that are envisaged within the programme, but more resources will have to be devoted to the use of advanced data-processing techniques in statistics at some future date.

After making some specific comments on the various research themes proposed within the programme, the choice of which it approves, the Committee concludes by drawing attention to the burdens which the production of statistics can impose on those supplying these statistics. It urges that the problems of data suppliers be borne in mind in the implementation of the programme.

Finally, the Committee draws attention to the vital importance of ensuring that the use of statistical expert systems is regulated by carefully developed controls to guarantee that confidential information about individuals is completely safeguarded.

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Energy, Nuclear Questions and Research, chaired by Mr Romoli (Italy — Employers). The rapporteur was Mr Black (United Kingdom — Various Interests).

¹ CES 1328/88.

9. Brite/Euram

Proposal for a Council Decision adopting a specific research and technological development programme of the European Economic Community in the fields of industrial manufacturing technologies and advanced materials applications (Brite/Euram) (1989-92)
[COM(88) 385 final — SYN 142/2]

Gist of the Commission proposal

The Brite/Euram programme comes under the research and technological development activities (1987-91)¹ 'Modernization of industrial sectors' and more specifically under lines 3.1 and 3.2 and concerned with science and technology for manufacturing industry and science and technology for advanced materials.

Initially these two research sectors were covered by separate programmes decided by the Council in 1985 and 1986 respectively:

- (i) a research and development programme for the EEC in the fields of basic technological research and the application of new technologies (Brite) (1987-88);² this programme was amended in March 1988,³ the Committee having approved the amendment in December 1987;⁴
- (ii) a research programme on materials (raw materials and advanced materials) (1986-89),⁵ which comprised two sub-programmes, one of which was Euram, covering metallic materials, engineering ceramics and composite materials.

Following evaluation of these two programmes and in consultation with the scientific and industrial circles concerned, particularly in the form of the Industrial Research and Development Advisory Committee (Irdac), the Commission decided that, given the very close links between the work on manufacturing industry technologies and that on materials, it would not be appropriate to maintain the present situation.

The Commission considers that the rapid development of materials (Euram) has a direct impact on the new tools developed for and

¹ OJ L 302, 24.10.1987, p. 1.

² OJ L 83, 25.3.1985, p. 8.

³ OJ L 59, 4.3.1988, p. 23.

⁴ OJ C 356, 31.12.1987, p. 5.

⁵ OJ L 159, 14.6.1986, p. 36.

by manufacturing industries (Brite) and that conversely the development of new manufacturing processes (Brite) also involves the use and development of suitable materials.

Specifically the proposed programme seeks to:

- (i) help enhance the competitive position of the Community's manufacturing industries in world markets through the support of a programme of research and development to provide the industrial and materials technology base required for strategic, innovative product and process development;
- (ii) encourage trans-frontier collaboration within the Community between industrial companies and complementary centres of expertise in industry, research organizations and universities;
- (iii) encourage transfer of technology between sectors and particularly to those sectors, often with a high predominance of SMEs, which are slow in exploiting new technologies to improve their performance.

This programme is to cover the following areas:

- (i) advanced materials technologies — the development of advanced materials and their processing for industrial use;
- (ii) design methodology and assurance of products and processes — engineering technologies for product design, means of manufacture and assurance, together with design assurance of manufacturing processes;
- (iii) application of manufacturing technologies — identification and addressing of the needs of manufacturing industry and particularly the less-advanced sectors, many of which have a major part made up of SMEs;
- (iv) technologies for manufacturing processes — new and improved manufacturing techniques for more effective production.

The budget considered necessary for the programme, which will be implemented mainly by means of cost shared contracts, amounts to ECU 439.5 million, broken down as follows:

- (i) science and technology for manufacturing industry:
ECU 300 million;
- (ii) science and technology for advanced materials:
ECU 139.5 million.

The Commission also specifies the criteria for selecting research projects and evaluating the programme in which European third countries may participate.

Gist of the Committee's Opinion ¹

The ESC unanimously adopted its Opinion on this subject.

Bearing in mind the Brite/Euram programme's aim to make industry more competitive, the Committee wonders if it is wise to restrict Community R&TD to pre-competitive areas.

The Commission is therefore asked to undertake a review of its current policy and definitions.

The Committee considers the enhancement of economic and social cohesion to be a very serious objective of the programme. The Commission is asked to take proper account of it when selecting research projects.

The Committee reiterates the need to reconcile scientific and technological development with social considerations.

Although the Committee realizes that it is difficult to achieve such a balance, it recommends that special attention be given to this problem.

The Committee urges the Commission to consider evaluation procedures coincidentally with the formulation of projects.

It also makes a number of specific comments and recommendations concerning:

- (i) criteria for selecting projects and priorities to be considered when deciding on the programme's technical content;
- (ii) the involvement of industry, universities and higher education establishments;
- (iii) involvement of the JRC;
- (iv) an information package for potential contractors;
- (v) procedures for calls for proposals;
- (vi) demonstration projects;
- (vii) feasibility awards for smaller firms;
- (viii) focused fundamental research;
- (ix) assessment of the programme's social impact;
- (x) management of the programme;
- (xi) the utilization and dissemination of results; and

¹ CES 1330/88.

- (xii) keeping the ESC informed about the programme's implementation.

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Energy, Nuclear Questions and Research, chaired by Mr Romoli (Italy — Employers). The rapporteur was Mr de Normann (United Kingdom — Employers).

10. VETERINARY CHECKS

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) concerning veterinary checks in intra-Community trade with a view to the completion of the internal market

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) on intensifying controls on the application of the veterinary rules

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No 1468/81 on mutual assistance between the administrative authorities of the Member States and cooperation between the latter and the Commission to ensure the correct application of the law on customs or agricultural matters
[COM(88) 383 final]

Gist of the Commission proposal

1. Proposal for a Council Regulation concerning veterinary checks in respect of intra-Community trade in relation to the completion of the internal market

In order to complete the internal market and in conformity with the 'white paper', the Commission considers it necessary in the first place to discontinue veterinary checks at the internal frontiers, to insist upon controls at the place of production, and to adopt provisions concerning controls at the place of destination.

The exporting Member State must be obliged to make veterinary checks in accordance with Community legislation or that of the Member State of destination for the areas not yet the subject of Community legislation, subject to Article 36 of the Treaty. In particular the consigning Member State must take all action necessary to prevent goods from leaving a zone or holding that is under prohibition. The consigning Member State will also be under an obligation to carry out all specified control operations for the consignment of goods to higher status zones. Under certain cir-

cumstances for the most serious diseases this will involve control operations at the point of removal from the lower status area.

The Commission intends to develop this approach.

In addition, goods may not be dispatched from a Member State to other Member States if they cannot be marketed in the territory of the country of production for reasons justified by Article 36 of the Treaty.

Checks at the place of destination must only be made by sampling. However, in the case of live animals, quarantine rules apply when this is justified. This underlines the temporary character of the approach. None the less, provision should be made when irregularities are seriously suspected to permit checks to be made during the transportation of the goods. Veterinary checks at the place of destination must no longer be linked with customs operations.

The proposal provides also for measures to be taken when controls made at the place of destination disclose irregularities (supporting documents not in order, existence of a serious disease, other measures).

At the same time the extension of the arbitration system in the event of disputes between Member States is proposed. This should provide a basis for solving problems and should help establish confidence between Member States, where necessary involving the Commission.

In order for this approach to have a real impact it must cover all products whether or not subject to Community harmonization measures, and whether or not of Community origin.

This general approach implies recourse to and the development of a mutual information system and the extension and amendment of the safeguard clause to cover the whole sector.

For non-harmonized products, it is necessary that the Member States are fully informed of the requirements of other Member States in respect of both goods of Community origin and imports from third countries. The above requirements must be limited to those covered by Article 36 of the Treaty. The Commission will see to this. In addition, for live animals and for certain sensitive products, specific information must be provided to the country of destination, with a view to facilitating possible controls.

For the safeguard clause to be effective, primary responsibility must rest with the Member State of dispatch. The Commission must be

able to act speedily, in particular to make on-the-spot investigations and adopt appropriate decisions. This will help prevent measures being taken by the Member State of destination.

2. Proposal for a Council Regulation on the reinforced control of the application of veterinary regulations

In addition to the above measures which must be taken concerning guarantees required to be given at the place of origin and the discontinuance of internal frontier checks, it is essential that other Community steps be taken to ensure the uniform and coordinated application of these rules and the control of irregularities and fraud. These may take the following forms:

(i) Community checks

In the majority of the sectors concerned provision is made for Commission experts to make on-the-spot checks, in so far as is necessary to ensure the uniform application of Community rules. This provision applies not only to the application of Community law within the Community but also, where appropriate, to imports from third countries.

To this end the Council has already made provision in certain fields for on-the-spot checks. This inspection system is operating in a satisfactory fashion and in general the Commission does not find it necessary to modify it. Steps must be taken, however, to extend it to those areas not covered at present. The Community institutions must ensure that adequate budgetary resources and staff are provided to carry out the tasks laid down.

(ii) Reinforcement of the control of application of Community veterinary legislation

The object of the second Commission proposal is threefold:

Firstly, to reinforce the measures taken by Member States to control the correct application of Community rules so that:

- (a) controls are carried out in a uniform way at all stages from the farm to the consumer;
- (b) the controls are carried out in the same way for products intended for other Member States and for products for the domestic market;
- (c) appropriate penalties are imposed when infringements of the legislation are established.

Secondly, to reinforce the system of coordination between the services concerned, both within the Member States and between the Member States and the Commission.

Thirdly, to ensure that the structure and operation of the control authorities involved are adequate for carrying out the tasks required.

3. Proposal for a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) 1468/81 on mutual assistance between the administrative authorities of the Member States and cooperation between the latter and the Commission to ensure the correct application of the law on customs and agricultural matters

A proposal is made to indicate clearly that the existing Community provisions concerning mutual assistance between the responsible authorities of the Member States and cooperation between the Member States and the Commission to ensure the correct application of the law on customs and agricultural matters apply fully to the veterinary legislation sector. Such clarification is considered to be necessary in order to avoid any ambiguity at Community level. Similarly it is proposed that the same clarification be made for the plant health sector.

Gist of the Committee's Opinion ¹

In an Opinion adopted unanimously, the Committee approved the dismantling of barriers to trade and the elimination of veterinary checks at internal frontiers. It welcomes the Commission's idea of replacing control at national frontiers by checks carried out at the place of dispatch.

However, in view of the numerous differences between the Member States in this field, the Committee recommends avoiding the premature adoption of interim texts which would not enable all the measures necessary for the attainment of the original objective to be implemented.

The Committee considers that definitive measures should be worked out in the light of the completion of the internal market, taking into account their internal and external implications.

So that the Commission can carry out its responsibilities in this area, the Committee stresses the importance of adequate veterinary

¹ CES 1331/88.

inspection staff and similar interpretation of the standards throughout the Community.

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Agriculture and Fisheries, chaired by Mr Laur (France — Various Interests). The rapporteur was Mr Storie-Pugh (United Kingdom — Various Interests).

11. MONITOR PROGRAMME

Proposal for a Council Decision concerning a Community programme in the field of strategic analysis, forecasting and evaluation in matters of research and technology (1988-92) (Monitor)
[COM(88) 386 final — SYN 147]

Summary of the Commission proposal

The Monitor programme comes under research action line 8 of the framework programme of Community research and technological development (1987-91) ¹ 'Improvement of European scientific and technical cooperation', more specifically line 8.3 'Forecasting and assessment and other back-up measures'.

The purpose of this project is to contribute to the identification of new directions and priorities in the common research and technological development policy and to establish more clearly the relationships between it and the other common policies and to the improvement of evaluation of R&D programmes.

The Commission intends that the implementation of this programme should provide the various bodies responsible for drawing up the framework programme with the information and analyses which they need to formulate their main policies, taking into account the objectives (economic, social, quality of life, cohesion) set out in the Single Act, to the achievement of which the Community's science and technology policy must also contribute.

For this, according to the Commission, the Community must have the means to understand the scientific and technical environment, its evolution, the strengths and weaknesses of Europe compared with its competitors, the impact of science and technology in

¹ OJ L 302, 24.10.1987, p. 1.

industrial, social and economic development; it must also be able to assess the effectiveness and impact of Community action.

Hence the proposed programme comprises three activity sectors and allocates ECU 22 million, divided as follows, to its implementation:

- (i) *Strategic and impact analyses relating to scientific and technological developments* (SAST): ¹ ECU 6.55 million

These activities consist of carrying out 'targeted' analyses in a scientific field, technology sector or a challenging theme, and comprise:

- (a) the preparation of reports on the prospects for development and the strengths and weaknesses of the European Community, a group of countries in the Community, particularly with respect to R&D structures, a high-technology sector, a scientific field or in relation to important changes in other countries' science and technology policies, particularly those outside the Community;
- (b) the carrying out of technology assessments into the state of development of a technology and its future evolution, constraints to innovation, industrial and socio-economic impact within the Community (by sector, region, etc.), requirements in terms of R&D and investment financing etc.; and
- (c) the preparation of reports of strategic analyses (Strategic dossiers) shedding light, for a given problem, on alternatives open to the European Community and proposing precise orientations for action.

- (ii) *Forecasting* (FAST): ² ECU 10.45 million

These activities are a reoriented follow-up to previous FAST programmes; they include the study of scientific and technological changes and their many interactions with economic and social changes. They comprise:

- (a) the preparation of reports (Forecasting dossiers) on major topics or phenomena of a global character. The choice of these topics will depend on their relevance and significance in relation to the objectives of the common R&TD policy. They may extend beyond the strictly European framework;

¹ Strategic analysis in the field of science and technology.

² Forecasting and assessment in science and technology.

- (b) the undertaking of studies of the implications and consequences of selected scientific and technical developments which present important challenges for society in the future;
 - (c) the synthesis and critical analysis of the main forecasting studies published worldwide;
 - (d) the preparation every two years of a *Report on the economic and social implications of technological change*, particularly in Europe.
- (iii) *Research and studies aimed at improving the methodologies for evaluating R&D activities* (Spear)¹

These activities, which are in support of the evaluation of Community R&D programmes, comprise:

- (a) the preparation, in conformity with the evaluation plan of action of 4 to 5 horizontal evaluations of certain activities common to Community, national or international research in order to analyse their impact and identify means to improve their effectiveness at Community level. This covers analyses of methods of support and of management of national and Community research;
- (b) research actions into methodologies of evaluations of R&D programmes in order to increase their utility and make them more credible to their users.

The proposed Decision also provides for the possibility of involving non-EEC countries in the implementation of the programme.

Gist of the Committee's Opinion ²

In its Opinion, adopted unanimously, the Committee emphasizes that science is for the people and has a vital contribution to make to the economic and social objectives of the Community.

It also supports the view of the Commission that it is necessary to reinforce the specificity and utility of the forecasting activities by developing 'global' analyses and studies at the interfaces science/technology/economy/society, particularly with reference to the two major objectives of the Community for the 1990s: the completion of the internal market and the reinforcement of economic and social cohesion within the Community.

¹ Support programme for the evaluation of activities in the field of research.

² CES 1329/88.

The Committee also makes a number of comments and recommendations concerning each of the three sub-programmes proposed (FAST, SAST and Spear) with the aim of defining more clearly the role which the Commission has assigned to each and their contribution to an integrated science and technology policy.

The Committee also draws attention to:

- (i) the need to improve coordination techniques as regards scientific and technological activities;
- (ii) the importance of the Industrial Research and Development Advisory Committee (Irdac) in establishing dialogue with the social partners;
- (iii) the management of the programme — *inter alia* the provisions governing the structure and running of the Management and Coordination Committee which is to assist the Commission in implementing the programme;
- (iv) the need to brief the Economic and Social Committee about the implementation of the programme.

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Energy, Nuclear Questions and Research, chaired by Mr Romoli (Italy — Employers). The rapporteur was Mr de Normann (United Kingdom — Employers).

12. PROTECTION OF WORKERS AGAINST BIOLOGICAL AGENTS

Proposal for a Council Directive on the protection of workers from the risks relating to exposure to biological agents at work
[COM(88) 165 final]

Gist of the Commission proposal

The proposal stems from the possibility of adopting specific measures under framework Directive 80/1107/EEC on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to chemical, physical and biological agents at work. While Community legislation on both chemical and physical agents already exists, biological agents are not as yet covered.

There are many biological agents which are harmful to health; exposure to them increases the risk of disease. Workers can be exposed in a wide variety of contexts, such as work conducted in

research and development laboratories, hospital isolation units, clinical, veterinary and diagnostic laboratories and industries in which biological agents are used.

The proposal first lays down conditions for Member State assessment of the nature and degree of the intrinsic risk of a biological agent to health, the risk of workers' current or potential exposure to it, the possibility of its transfer from the workplace to the community and the likelihood of its further spread within the Community.

Once the assessment has been made, exposure must be reduced to as low a level as is necessary in order to protect the health of the workers concerned. This is to be done by limiting the number of workers exposed, preventing exposure, providing personal and collective protection measures, adopting hygiene measures, providing workers with information, using a biohazard sign and establishing emergency procedures.

The proposal for a Directive also makes a quite clear distinction between activities where there is a conscious decision to work with biological agents and incidental exposure to biological agents. The two areas are covered by different provisions.

Additional provisions have been laid down for those who have made a conscious decision to work in areas where there are risks. These include (a) the creation of 'free' areas where workers can eat and drink and where they can store their working and street clothes, (b) the provision of protective clothing and disinfectants, and (c) the installation, where necessary, of showers.

With regard to biotechnologies, the proposal for a Directive covers 'biological' agents which have already been listed as dangerous and are subject to genetic manipulation as well as biological agents which may become dangerous as a result of manipulation work.

Gist of the Committee's Opinion ¹

In an Opinion adopted unanimously, less two abstentions, the Committee emphasized the need for a ranking of the prevention and safety measures as well as the need to standardize the definitions and terminology used in the various Directives which deal with biological agents and genetically modified organisms. It also recommends that minimum limits be fixed as soon as possible.

¹ CES 1339/88.

The Committee believes that the Directive should be geared to the establishment of criteria for standardization between Member States. It should provide for the drafting of a list of biological agents (for indicative or orientation purposes) and for the promotion of specialized and continuous training in techniques for preventing and detecting risks.

The Committee specifically recommends:

- (i) that the definitions of 'biological agents' be redefined with reference, for example, to WHO usage;
- (ii) that the two operational definitions in the Directive be modified;
- (iii) and that the difficulties smaller firms inevitably encounter as regards occupational medicine could be overcome by using services or bodies operating at an inter-company level.

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Social, Family, Educational and Cultural Affairs, chaired by Mr Carroll (Ireland — Workers). The rapporteur was Mr Vidal (Portugal — Various Interests).

13. AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Proposal for a Council Decision adopting a research programme on competitiveness of agriculture and management of agricultural resources (1989-93)

Gist of the Commission's proposal

The aims of the agricultural research programme (1989-93) proposed by the Commission are in line with the approach defined in the memorandum on 'A future for European agriculture' [COM(85) 750 final], namely:

- (i) helping Community agricultural production meet demand;
- (ii) maintaining farming income at a reasonable level;
- (iii) rationalizing and modernizing farming structures, respecting environmental needs.

The programme intended to meet these aims will be carried out through appropriate activities, mainly:

- (i) shared-cost projects,
- (ii) priority pilot actions,
- (iii) coordination activities,

- (iv) dissemination of research results to information services and farmers.

The proposed budget amounts to ECU 55 million.

Gist of the Committee Opinion ¹

Protection of the environment is, in the Committee's unanimous view, a key component of future development.

Along with the other Community programmes, such action can play a useful role in backing up agricultural research in the individual Member States by boosting research standards and hence stimulating more original and competitive research findings and innovations at international level.

This Opinion was drawn in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Agriculture and Fisheries, chaired by Mr Laur (France — Various Interests). The rapporteur was Mr Serra Caracciolo (Italy — Various Interests).

14. ANIMAL HEALTH PROBLEMS

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 80/215/EEC on animal health problems affecting intra-Community trade in meat products
[COM(88) 535 final]

Gist of the Commission proposal

Article 4 (1) of Directive 80/215/EEC on animal health problems affecting intra-Community trade in meat products lays down the types of treatment to be used in the manufacture of such products when there is a risk that the causal agents of certain animal diseases may be present in the meat of origin.

In 1987 in the light of developments of a technical nature supported by scientific findings and opinion, a new treatment was approved and incorporated into the directive by way of an amendment. This involved a pasteurization process, whereby hams up to 5 kgs in weight after deboning could be produced safely in Member States where African swine fever is considered endemic.

¹ CES 1332/88.

In the light of certain trade difficulties, a further scientific opinion has been issued indicating that the weight limitation can be raised to 8 kgs provided all other safeguards are maintained and respected.

Gist of the Committee Opinion ¹

The Committee approves the Commission proposal in its unanimously adopted Opinion.

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Agriculture and Fisheries, chaired by Mr Laur (France — Various Interests). The rapporteur was Mr Storie-Pugh (United Kingdom — Various Interests).

15. BEEF/VEAL

Proposals for Council Regulations amending:

- (i) **Regulation (EEC) No 805/68 on the common organization of the market in beef and veal and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 1302/73**
- (ii) **Regulation (EEC) No 1357/80 introducing a system of premiums for maintaining suckler cows and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 1199/82**
[COM(88) 529 final]

Gist of the Commission proposal

The Commission is proposing to amend the present arrangements governing the market in beef and veal, which expire at the end of the year, and introduce the following provisions which would be applicable as of 1 January 1989:

(a) Buying-in

- (i) *Activation thresholds* would be reduced to 88% for the Community market price (at present 91%) and to 84% for the market price in the Member State concerned (at present 87%).
- (ii) *A likely total quantity* of 200 000 tonnes per year for public buying-in would be fixed. Additional quantities may however

¹ CES 1333/88.

be purchased by the public authorities, but only by tender and only where:

- exceptional circumstances are ascertained by the Commission;
- or for two consecutive weeks the average market price in the Member State concerned and the average Community market price ascertained on the basis of the Community classification scale are lower than 80% and 84% of the intervention price respectively. Buying-in may fluctuate during the year, given the special requirements during the autumn months usually requiring fuller support for prices. To this end, *private storage* facility will always be available, as well as public buying-in, for market support purposes.

(b) The various premium schemes

There are at present four different premium schemes:

- (i) *The calf premium* was first introduced in 1973 to curb the decline in cattle numbers in Italy.

In view of the proposed improvements to the other premium schemes, the Commission is proposing, in line with its announcement in 1986, that the calf premium should not be continued.

- (ii) *The variable slaughter premium* has been operated in the United Kingdom since 1974.

In view of the proposed improvements to the other premium schemes, the Commission is proposing, in line with its announcement in 1986, that the variable slaughter premium should not be renewed.

- (iii) *The premium for maintaining suckler cow herds* was introduced in 1980.

The Commission takes the view that the premium in its present form is an effective instrument for the support of farmers specializing in quality beef and that the premium scheme should be retained in future years.

For the period beginning on 1 January 1989, the Commission proposes a stronger incentive to retention of suckler cow herds by an increase in the premium to ECU 40 per cow.

The current rules authorize the Member States to pay an additional premium of ECU 25 per cow. As regards Greece, Ireland and Northern Ireland, ECU 20 of this additional

premium have been financed for several years (due to end on 31 December 1988) by the EAGGF; in view of the special circumstances prevailing in the countries concerned, the Commission is proposing that this specific financing should be continued, but be restricted to ECU 10 to avoid excessive differences in amounts between Member States.

- (iv) *The special premium for male bovine animals* was introduced in 1987 as an additional means of direct support to farmers raising young male cattle, in particular to help offset the impact of the adaptation of the public buying-in arrangements.

As the Commission is proposing other adjustments to the buying-in arrangements, it now proposes not only renewal of the special premium but also an increase in the amount from ECU 25 to 40 per animal. Also, with a view to general application of this premium scheme in all the Member States, entailing an increase in the average size of the farms concerned, it is proposing that the maximum number of animals per farm qualifying for the aid should be increased from 50 to 75.

Gist of the Committee Opinion ¹

In an Opinion, adopted unanimously, with 6 abstentions the Committee makes a number of comments on the proposed measures to achieve the aims:

- (i) the lowering of the intervention threshold by 3% should be considered in relation to the level of buying-in;
- (ii) looking at intervention in quantitative terms, the annual ceiling of 200 000 tonnes should be reconsidered, for it entails the risk of a departure from the original aims of the market organization for beef and veal; at all events, the Committee feels that access to intervention must be open to all Member States;
- (iii) the proposed tendering procedure, intended to replace the current fixed-price procedure for buying-in, seems unsuitable for effective price support and should be reconsidered.

As regards the common organization of the market in beef and veal, and more particularly the payment of the special premium, the Committee takes the view that the Member States should be free to choose the method of payment to producers.

¹ CES 1341/88.

On the proposal to amend Regulation (EEC) No 1357/80 introducing a system of premiums for maintaining suckler cows, the Committee considers that this premium should also be paid to small-scale producers who supply milk or milk products for marketing, subject to monitoring possibilities.

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Agriculture and Fisheries, chaired by Mr Laur (France — Various Interests). The rapporteur was Mr Wick (Germany — Employers).

16. SHEEPMET AND GOATMEAT

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) on the common organization of the market in sheepmeat and goatmeat
[COM(88) 528 final]

Gist of the Commission's proposals

The Commission is proposing a series of changes, based on amendments already proposed in the past, for the sheepmeat and goatmeat sector, to enter into force at the beginning of the new marketing year, i.e. 2 January 1989.

(a) Definition of new regions

The first change consists in the definition of new regions.

For 1989, 1990, 1991 and 1992, the regions are to be as follows:

- Region 1: Italy and Greece;
- Region 2: France, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Ireland, Northern Ireland;
- Region 3: Spain, Portugal;
- Region 4: Great Britain.

From 1993 onwards, Great Britain will become part of Region 2.

It is also proposed that a single figure for income loss be established for the three regions from 1993 onwards. The Community market price is obtained on the basis of the prices in the various Member States, weighted according to meat production.

(b) Dismantling of the variable slaughter premium for sheep in Great Britain

It is also proposed that the guide level for the calculation of the variable slaughter premium should be wound down.

The guide level will be set at the following percentages of the basic price:

1989: 81%
1990: 77%
1991: 73%
1992: 69%.

The variable premium will be discontinued altogether from 1993.

(c) Less-frequent payment of the slaughter premium

The variable premium, which is now paid weekly, will be paid monthly in 1990 and quarterly from 1991 onwards.

For the calculation of the financial implications, the assumption is made that the variable premium is paid at the beginning of the month following the relevant quarter.

(d) Payment of advances on the ewe premium

The proposal also includes payment of two advances to sheep and goat farmers. To quantify the financial implications, the assumption is made that the payment of an advance of 30% will be chargeable to the current year and that the second advance and the balance will be paid in the following year.

Gist of the Committee's Opinion ¹

The Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously with 8 abstentions. It considers that, despite the reform introduced in 1988 through the application of agricultural stabilizers, the sheepmeat (and goatmeat) sector is a market where the Community still has only 80% self-sufficiency.

Consequently, the Committee cannot offer a definitive opinion on the Commission proposal for changing the internal aspects of the EC regime before the outcome of a renegotiation of trade arrangements with third countries is known.

¹ CES 1340/88.

The Committee also expresses reservations about the proposal to divide the Community into four regions, and about the composition of these regions.

As regards the proposal that the ewe premium should be paid only on a certain number of ewes in each flock, the Committee considers that differences between the regions should be taken into account: smaller producers in certain regions should not be discriminated against just because, in other regions, only larger flocks are viable. Income in this sector is already low.

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Agriculture and Fisheries, chaired by Mr Laur (France — Various Interests). The rapporteur was Mr Strauss (United Kingdom — Various Interests).

17. VETERINARY/PEDIGREE

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) laying down zootechnical and pedigree requirements for the marketing of purebred animals
[COM(88) 598 final]

Gist of the Commission proposal

Satisfactory breeding results depend largely on the use of purebred animals for reproductive purposes.

Consequently, with a view to completing the internal market, and helping to increase productivity in this sector, harmonized marketing rules should be laid down at Community level.

The Commission proposal lays down basic rules for the achievement of the said objectives. It gives the Commission powers to adopt the necessary implementing decisions, once the Standing Committee on Zootechnics has been consulted.

Gist of the Committee Opinion ¹

In its Opinion, adopted unanimously, the Committee endorsed the Commission proposal.

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Agriculture and Fisheries, chaired by Mr Laur (France —

¹ CES 1334/88.

Various Interests). The rapporteur was Mr Storie-Pugh (United Kingdom— Various Interests).

18. NUTS (Own-initiative)

Situation in the nuts sector in the Community

Reasons

In this Own-initiative Opinion the Committee should suggest the broad lines of a policy for the nuts sector in the light *inter alia* of the Commission's recent proposals contained in COM(88) 597 final. The Commission adopts two lines of approach:

- (i) the concentration of supply by encouraging the setting-up of nut producers' organizations and enabling these organizations to play a role in regularizing supply by helping them with the necessary financial resources;
- (ii) the improvement of Community production in varietal, cultural and commercial terms. To this end the producers' organizations must be able to draw up plans for improving the quality and presentation of the products and give them a commercial boost by means of promotion campaigns. The introduction of Community quality standards must not be neglected in this context.

The Commission is in fact proposing the following over and above the existing provisions:

- (i) an additional aid for the formation of producers' organizations;
- (ii) an aid for the creation by the producers' organizations of a fund for storage of products and improvement of their quality and homogeneity;
- (iii) an aid for varietal and cultural improvement and commercial modernization within the framework of a plan to be submitted by the producers' organizations;
- (iv) participation in a promotion campaign organized by the various economic operators in the sector. The Community and the Member State would make a financial contribution to match that of the economic operators.

Gist of the Committee's Opinion ¹

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously. It takes note of the Commission's recent proposals to improve the organization of nut production and reiterates the importance of this sector in the Community.

It welcomes the Commission's moves, but feels that measures should be taken to ensure that nuts are of the quality required by consumers and the processing industry.

The Committee also insists that the market in nuts should continue to be covered by Regulation (EEC) No 1035/72, that subsidies granted under IMPs should be retained and applied to all areas in the Community which produce nuts and that the Regulation should include other types of shell-fruit, such as chestnuts, pine-nuts, pistachios, carobs and groundnuts.

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Agriculture and Fisheries, chaired by Mr Laur (France — Various Interests). The rapporteur was Mr Margalef Masia (Spain — Various Interests).

19. AERONAUTICS/STRATEGIC RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY — PILOT PHASE

Communication from the Commission to the Council and to the European Parliament concerning a programme of strategic research and technology in the field of aeronautics — pilot phase (1989-90)

Gist of the Commission document

1. The Community's aeronautical industry, directly employing about 200 000 people in high-technology production, is undeniably of strategic importance in terms of economy and defence. It is necessary to guarantee its future survival in the face of international competition which comes from emerging countries, such as Brazil, Japan and China, but most of all from the United States. US firms benefit from a domestic market which is larger, more homogeneous and better organized than the European market; they also receive substantial official aid in the form of installations

¹ CES 1335/88.

and project development, provided chiefly by NASA and the Defence Department.

The Commission invited nine Community aircraft companies to analyse the current market situation and prospects up until 2010, assess the options necessary to guarantee competitiveness in world markets and identify key-technology areas for joint investment.

The Commission gives a full account of the findings of the survey, which highlight the need for:

- (i) closer cooperation in the field of research and technology;
- (ii) concentration in key-technology areas; and
- (iii) additional financial resources.

2. In Communication COM(88) 294 final the Commission outlines a programme of strategic measures in aeronautical research and technology for Europe. Immediate action is needed in the field of aeronautics because the results of research and new technologies will not actually be put into production for another 20-25 years: 5-6 years will be required to develop a new technology, 5-10 years to build a prototype and the remaining years for production.

3. As the first part of the above programme, the Commission has developed a two-year pilot programme — 1989/1990 [COM(88) 393 final — SYN 144]. The EC has allocated ECU 60 million to this programme, roughly half the cost, which means that pilot projects worth a total of around ECU 120 million will be developed.

The Commission points out that the programme will be of interest even for countries which do not have an aerospace industry. Projects will be required to take the form of cross-frontier cooperation, involving at least two independent firms established in two different countries. Firms in other industrial sectors, especially small and medium-sized firms, and research centres, laboratories and universities, etc. will be able to benefit from the programme, both as suppliers and as partners in research which is usually accessible only to large-scale industries.

During the second year of the pilot programme, the Commission will present concrete proposals for the main programme.

Gist of the Committee's Opinion ¹

In its Opinion, adopted unanimously less one abstention, the Committee would stress the programme's potential importance for the aeronautical industry by giving a boost to industrial development in Europe, and for:

- (i) subcontractors in the small business sector;
- (ii) various high-tech sectors;
- (iii) cross-border cooperation between industry and universities;
- (iv) European politics;
- (v) the acquisition of experience in managing such projects.

The Opinion makes a number of specific comments, namely:

- (i) the pilot programme should focus on fewer fields of activity;
- (ii) priority should be given to high-tech sectors in which the industry in Europe can become a world leader;
- (iii) the proposed topics should be put in some order in the light of the capabilities of the industry in Europe;
- (iv) priority should be given to 'intelligence technologies';
- (v) maximum importance should be attached to matters relating to environmental protection and social acceptability.
- (vi) consideration should also be given to the problems of air traffic control and safety, risk prevention in the air and on the ground and other matters linked to passenger safety.

The aeronautical programme's activities should be coordinated with those planned under the Brite/Euram programme in order to achieve maximum efficiency and avoid the duplication of efforts.

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services, chaired by Mr Kazazis (Greece — Employers). The rapporteur was Mr Flum (Germany — Workers).

¹ CES 1338/88.

20. TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE 1988/89

Proposal for a Council Regulation on the granting of financial support to transport infrastructure projects

Gist of the Commission proposal

At its Plenary Session of 23 November 1988, the ESC approved the principle and objectives underpinning the proposal for a Council Regulation for an action programme in the field of transport infrastructure with a view to the completion of an integrated transport market in 1992 (Rouzier Opinion), while pointing out that the action programme did not call into question the medium-term programme which was still pending at the Council.

The Transport Council of 8 and 9 December 1988 was not in a position to respond favourably to either of these two programmes. Following the conclusions of the European Council of 2 and 3 December in Rhodes, the Commission is now submitting a new *ad hoc* regulation which, like the two regulations adopted by the Council in 1986 and 1987,¹ concerns the granting of financial support to certain transport infrastructure projects.

The adoption of such a regulation would permit the use of the appropriations set aside for this purpose in the 1988 budget by the European Parliament in line with its budgetary powers, and of those which will be available in the 1989 budget.

The proposal covers the following projects:

Action 1

Studies and preparatory work

Action 2

Fitting-out of a combined transport network

Axis UK—Benelux—Modane

Axis Modane—Turin—Bari

Action 3

Use of new technologies in road traffic management

RDS-TMC information system in the Rhône valley

¹ OJ L 378, 31.12.1986 and OJ L 380, 31.12.1987.

Action 4

Improvement of links with the Iberian peninsula

Action 5

Improvement of Channel tunnel infrastructure

Action 6

High-speed rail link Paris—London—Brussels—Amsterdam—
Cologne
London—Folkestone
Brussels—Aachen

Action 7

Improvement of North-South transit axis in Ireland
Dublin ring road — Northern Cross route

Action 8

Scanlink
Electrification Ringsted—Odense

Action 9

Modernization of transit links to Greece
Evzoni—Athens—Corinth motorway
Thessaloniki—Idomeni line

Action 10

International links in frontier areas
Boxmeer—Venlo—Germany motorway
Luxembourg East ring road

Action 11

Transalpine links to Italy
Line from Brenner Pass, Verona—Bologna new line

Gist of the Committee's Opinion ¹

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously, less two abstentions. It regrets that the Council is still unable to adopt an action programme in the field of transport infrastructure with a view to the completion of an integrated transport market in 1992. Adoption of this programme would be the first step towards a real multiannual Community policy in the field of

¹ CES 1344/88.

transport infrastructure. The Committee reaffirms its conviction that a medium-term regulation would be a much better instrument than *ad hoc* measures, which are very often the result of a compromise rather than of an objective examination of the real economic priorities.

The rapporteur-general for this Opinion was Mr Rouzier (France — Workers).

External relations

Activities of the Chairman and the Secretary-General

On 28 and 29 November 1988 the Secretary-General, Mr Moreau, paid an official visit to Madrid. On the first day of his visit he took part in 'Euroforum' and on the second day he met ministers and leading figures in Spanish trade unions and employers' organizations, as well as the State Secretary for Relations with the EC.

On 2 December, Mr Moreau, Secretary-General, Mr Jenkins, Vice-Chairman, and Mr Ceyrac, Member of the ESC and rapporteur, gave a press conference in Paris to present the Resolution in which the ESC proposes an EC action programme for 1989-92.

On 5 December, the ESC Chairman, Mr Masprone, and the Secretary-General, Mr Moreau, had talks in Brussels with Sir David Hannay, UK Permanent Representative.

On 7 December the ESC Chairman, Mr Masprone, attended two receptions — the first given by the Association belge des Banques, Brussels, and the second by the Liaison Committee on Automobile Manufacture for the EEC.

On 8 December Mr Masprone gave the welcoming address at the Mediterranean Cooperation Conference in Brussels.

On 9 December, the Chairman and the Secretary-General had talks with the Spanish Permanent Representative in Brussels, Mr Westendorp y Cabeza.

On 12 December the Chairman and the Secretary-General welcomed in Brussels a group of visitors from the Incomes Policy Commission of the Finnish Ministry of Finance.

Other activities

12th ACP/EEC meeting

The 12th meeting of economic and social interest groups of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries and the European



'Prime Minister' meets President. Paul Eddington, star of BBC satirical series 'Yes, Prime Minister' with ESC President Alberto Masprone.

Communities, organized by the ESC, was held in Brussels, on 5 to 7 December 1988. The main theme of the debates was the need for more direct participation of the ACP/EEC socio-economic organizations at all stages of the future Lomé IV Convention and the involvement of these organizations in the implementation of ACP/EEC cooperation. The rapporteur for the document taking stock of this involvement and analysing the outlook was Mr Kaaris (Denmark — Employers).

The ESC Chairman, Mr Masprone, gave the welcoming speech. The debates were presided over by Mr Berhane and Mr McGowan, Co-Chairmen of the ACP/EEC Joint Assembly, and by Mr Greenidge, President of the Council of Ministers (ACP), Mr Lyberopoulos, Greek Permanent Representative, and Mr Fairclough, Deputy Director-General in Commission DG VIII (Development).

*
* *

On 29 November, at a press conference in Brussels, Mrs Flather (UK — Various Interests) presented an Opinion (for which she had been rapporteur) calling for greater commitment in the fight against racism and xenophobia.

On 9 and 10 December, Mr Margalef Masia (Spain — Various Interests), rapporteur for the Opinion on nuts, visited Caprarola, Italy, where a Section meeting was held on this subject.

On 1 December, Mr Mihr and Mr Rothley, members of the European Parliament and respectively rapporteurs of the Parliament's Opinions on 'Merger control' and 'European Company Statute', had a working lunch in Brussels with Mr Petersen, a member of the ESC and rapporteur of the Committee's recent Opinions on these same two subjects.

On 7 December, Mr Cal, member of the ESC and President of its Section for Regional Development, together with ESC Director Mr McLaughlin, had lunch with Mr Landaburu, Director-General of the Commission Directorate responsible for Regional Policy.

On 7 December, Mr Karalambous of the European Council of Ministers, took part in an ESC Transport Section meeting in Brussels.



At the EEC/ACP conference organized by the ESC, Mr Jacques Moreau, Secretary-General greets Mr Abu Harira, Vice-President of the ACP/EEC Joint Assembly, in the presence of Mr Alberto Masprone, ESC President.

New consultations

Since the last Plenary Session the Economic and Social Committee has been consulted on the following questions:

Proposal for a Council Directive amending in respect of chromium Directive 86/278/EEC on the protection of the environment, and in particular of the soil, when sewage sludge is used in agriculture
[COM(88) 624 final]

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 86/298/EEC on rear-mounted roll-over protection structures for narrow-track wheeled agricultural and forestry tractors
[COM(88) 626 final — SYN 163]

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 87/402/EEC on roll-over protection structures mounted in front of the driver's seat on narrow-track wheeled agricultural and forestry tractors
[COM(88) 629 final — SYN 164]

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 77/536/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the roll-over protection structures of wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors
[COM(88) 630 final — SYN 167]

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No 2727/75 on the common organization of the market in cereals
[COM(88) 614 final]

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No 3/84 introducing arrangements for movement within the Community of goods sent from one Member State for temporary use in one or more other Member States
[COM(88) 526 final — SYN 166]

Proposal for a Council Decision authorizing the Commission to raise loans under the New Community Instrument with a view to promoting investment in the Community
[COM(88) 661 final]

Programme of future work

January 1989 Plenary Session

Own-initiative work

- Derogation granted to Denmark on travellers' allowances
- Voting rights for Community nationals [COM(88) 371 final]
- Green paper on copyright [COM(88) 172 final]
- Weights and dimensions of motor vehicles (maximum length) [COM(88) 287 final]
- 17th Competition Policy Report [COM(88) 232 final]

Information Report

- Employment and training of research staff

Subsequent Plenary Sessions

Own-initiative work

- Rear-mounted roll-over protection structures for narrow-track tractors [COM(88) 626 final — SYN 163]
- Roll-over protection structures mounted in front of tractors [COM(88) 629 final — SYN 164]
- Approximation of the laws relating to the roll-over protection structures of tractors [COM(88) 630 final — SYN 167]
- Decommissioning of nuclear installations [COM(88) 415 final]
- Package holidays [COM(88) 41 final — SYN 122]
- Strategy and action programme for the forestry sector: protection against air pollution and fire [COM(88) 255 final]
- Sewage sludge [COM(88)255 final]
- Research and development programmes:
 - STEP — environmental protection
 - Epoch — climatology programme[COM(88) 632 final]
- Fertilizers [COM(88) 562 final — SYN 160]

Safety belts [COM(88) 544 final]
Teleman programme [COM(88) 416 final]
Framework agreement for scientific and technical cooperation with Iceland [COM(88) 527 final — SYN 156]
Research and development programme — MAST [COM(88) 587 final — SYN 162]
Utilization of electricity [COM(88) 576 final]
Community Charter of Basic Social Rights
Common organization of the market in the cereals' sector [COM(88) 614 final]
Protection of natural and semi-natural habitats [COM(88) 381 final]
Nutritional labelling of foodstuffs [COM(88) 489 final — SYN 155]
Health and environment protection against PCBs [COM(88) 559 final — SYN 161]
Freedom of access to information in the environmental field [COM(88) 484 final]
Community strategy and action programme for the forestry sector (5 proposals — agriculture) [COM(88) 255 final]
Economic situation mid-1989
Social developments in the Community — 1988
European cultural area (Additional Opinion)
Right of asylum and status of refugees
Tourism — 5-year programme [COM(88) 363 final]
Protection of the Mediterranean environment
Public contracts in exempted sectors [COM(88) 377 and 378 final]
Annual and consolidated accounts — SME exemptions [COM(88) 292 final — SYN 158]
Future of the rural world [COM(88) 501 final]
Environment and agriculture [COM(88) 338 final/2]
Legal protection of biotechnological inventions [COM(88) 496 final — SYN 159]
Civil liability for motor vehicles [COM(88) 644 final]
13th Annual ERDF Report
Capacity of air traffic control systems [COM(88) 577 final]

Information Reports

- Assessment and follow-up to IMPs
- Poverty
- GATT/Uruguay Round
- EEC/Mediterranean country relations

Own-initiative Opinions

- Social consequences of cross-frontier mergers
- Consumers' information centres
- Relations between the EEC and NIPs of South-East Asia
- 1992 and the EEC's external trade
- Utilization of agricultural and forestry resources
- Trans-frontier television
- Contribution of the cooperative sector to regional development

Members' news

Appointment

The Council of Ministers has appointed Mr Freeman (Ireland) a member of the Economic and Social Committee to replace Mr Curlis who recently died. Mr Freeman belongs to the Amalgamated Transport and General Workers' Union of Ireland.

Calendar for 1989 Plenary Sessions

JANUARY		FEBRUARY		MARCH		APRIL		MAY		JUNE	
1	New Year's Day	1	W	1	W	1	S	1	Labour Day	1	T
2	M	2	T	2	T	2	S	2	T	2	F
3	T	3	F	3	F	3	M	3	W	3	S
4	W	4	S	4	S	4	T	4	Ascension Day	4	S
5	T	5	S	5	S	5	W	5	F	5	M
6	F	6	M	6	M	6	T	6	S	6	T
7	S	7	T	7	T	7	F	7	S	7	W
8	S	8	W	8	W	8	S	8	M	8	T
9	M	9	T	9	T	9	S	9	Schuman Day	9	F
10	T	10	F	10	F	10	M	10	W	10	S
11	W	11	S	11	S	11	T	11	T	11	S
12	T	12	S	12	S	12	W	12	F	12	M
13	F	13	M	13	M	13	T	13	S	13	T
14	S	14	T	14	T	14	F	14	Whitsun	14	W
15	S	15	W	15	W	15	S	15	M	15	T
16	M	16	T	16	T	16	S	16	T	16	F
17	T	17	F	17	F	17	M	17	W	17	S
18	W	18	S	18	S	18	T	18	T	18	S
19	T	19	S	19	S	19	W	19	F	19	M
20	F	20	M	20	M	20	T	20	S	20	T
21	S	21	T	21	T	21	F	21	S	21	W
22	S	22	W	22	W	22	S	22	M	22	T
23	M	23	T	23	T	23	S	23	T	23	F
24	T	24	F	24	F	24	M	24	W	24	S
25	W	25	S	25	S	25	T	25	T	25	S
26	T	26	S	26	Easter	26	W	26	F	26	M
27	F	27	M	27	M	27	T	27	S	27	T
28	S	28	T	28	T	28	F	28	S	28	W
29	S			29	W	29	S	29	M	29	T
30	M			30	T	30	S	30	T	30	F
31	T			31	F			31	W		



Plenary Sessions



Subject to confirmation

JULY		AUGUST		SEPTEMBER		OCTOBER		NOVEMBER		DECEMBER	
1	S	1	T	1	F	1	S	1	All Saints' Day	1	F
2	S	2	W	2	S	2	M	2	All Souls' Day	2	S
3	M	3	T	3	S	3	T	3	F	3	S
4	T	4	F	4	M	4	W	4	S	4	M
5	W	5	S	5	T	5	T	5	S	5	T
6	T	6	S	6	W	6	F	6	M	6	W
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12	W	12	S	12	T	12	T	12	S	12	T
13	T	13	S	13	W	13	F	13	M	13	W
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15	S	15	Assumption	15	F	15	S	15	W	15	F
16	S	16	W	16	S	16	M	16	T	16	S
17	M	17	T	17	S	17	T	17	F	17	S
18	T	18	F	18	M	18	W	18	S	18	M
19	W	19	S	19	T	19	T	19	S	19	T
20	T	20	S	20	W	20	F	20	M	20	W
21	F	21	M	21	T	21	S	21	T	21	T
22	S	22	T	22	F	22	S	22	W	22	F
23	S	23	W	23	S	23	M	23	T	23	S
24	M	24	T	24	S	24	T	24	F	24	S
25	T	25	F	25	M	25	W	25	S	25	Christmas
26	W	26	S	26	T	26	T	26	S	26	T
27	T	27	S	27	W	27	F	27	M	27	W
28	F	28	M	28	T	28	S	28	T	28	T
29	S	29	T	29	F	29	S	29	W	29	F
30	S	30	W	30	S	30	M	30	T	30	S
31	M	31	T			31	T			31	S

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Consumer-producer dialogue (Opinion) (January 1985) (ESC 84-011)
Irish border areas (Information report) (February 1984) (ESC 84-002)
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